Hume pipes. The area surrounding the stretches was inundated, with flow of water causing further damages to the road, making maintenance work impossible. However, now the road has been repaired to make it traffic worthy.

(e) The permanent bridge is likely to be completed simultaneously with 4-laning of NH-31 in this section.

Four-laning of NH-9 in Andhra Pradesh

301. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposal of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for four-laning of 16.3 Km stretch of NH-9 between Sangareddy and Zahirabad and construction of 17 bridges on this stretch;

(b) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to this proposal; and

(c) by when it is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Sangareddy-Zahirabad section ofNH-9 in Andhra Pradesh is having a length of 53 Kms. The consultancy services for examining the viability of 4/6 laning of this stretch on Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) pattern in under progress. Further action in the matter will depend upon the outcome of the said study.

Satellite for studying the Sun

302. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO is planning to launch a satellite called Aditya to sutdy the Sun:

(b) the details of studies that Aditya is going to carry out; and

(c) to what extent the proposed study by Aditya helps ISRO's satellites from the vagaries of solar phenomena?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ADITYA will carry an instrument intended to study the outmost region of the sun called corona. It will also study the coronnal mass enjection and the crucial physical parameters of space weather, such as, the coronal magnetic field structures and evolution of the coronal magnetic field.

(c) The mission is intended to enhance the scientific knowledge of the Sun's radiation and the continuous monitoring of the Sun's atmosphere. This data will also help to design the satellites to withstand adverse effects of Solar environment.

Launching of foreign satellilte by ISRO

303. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a foreign satellite was launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to garner a share in the multi-billion global satellite launch market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by Government to ensure statellite launch market is not utilized for intelligence activities against India and its friendly countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 23rd April 2007, India's Polar Satellite Laucnh Vehicle, PSLV-C-8, successfully launched the AGILE satellite belonging to Italian Space Agency, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Subsequently, on 21st January 2008, the 300 kg Israeli Satellite (TECSAR) was launched by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C10. Both the launches were executed under a commerical contract with ANTRIX corporation.

(c) The launch services contract ensures that the customer satellite is meant purely for peaceful purposes.

Appearance of UFO type object

304. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a UFO type bright oval shape object with crimson rays was seen for about three minutes in the sky over Jaunpur District of Uttar Pradesh in night of 4-5 January 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether scientists have tried to establish facts about this object;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is not aware of any such event.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e)

Findings of survey by NSSO

†305. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the survey made by National sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and its latest report submitted in relation to national-average of povery, unemployment, per capita income, per capita consumption, availability of durinking water, education, health and crime, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of people living below poverty line in India is more than its neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and Myanmar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducted surveys to collect data on employment & unemployment, consumption expenditure, availability of drinking water facility, education and health during their 60th and 61st Rounds. State wise details on some of the indicators are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.